

SPASTICS NEWS

NEW SERIES PRICE 5p



The
Spastics
Society

APRIL, 1978

ANTICIPATION...



LITTLE Christopher Paget's smile shines out reflecting his excitement as he waits to see the Queen drive by. And his wait was worthwhile as you can read on pages 6-7. While a day earlier, his school-fellow at Ingfield Manor, Joanna Foxley, had a fairy tale come true when she not only met film star Susan Hampshire but took part in a film to be seen throughout the country. Full story Page 5.



Duchess looks in on Unit

WITH an eye on the future of paediatric research the Duchess of Kent gazes into the microscope presented to Professor Paul Polani by The Spastics Society. The Professor, Director of the Paediatric Research Unit which is funded by the Society, showed the Duchess round the new Tower block laboratories at Guy's Hospital, London.

The Duchess, Patron of the Society, last visited the Unit seven years ago—when it was housed in a converted warehouse.



Massive support for 'Save a Baby' rally

THE massive support for The Spastic Society's 'Save the Baby' Campaign rally shown by disabled people throughout the country has staggered the organisers.

The rally in London's Trafalgar Square on April 23 is the single biggest public event in the Society's history, and the master mind behind it, Barry Peet, said: 'We hoped for 1,000 handicapped people in the Square, but it looks as if there will be 2,000. No one is pressurising them or asking them to be 'on show.' They are coming in the hope that their presence will help babies as yet unborn to be saved from a life of handicap.'

'Thousands in the Square'

Michael Brophy, Director of Fund Raising, said: 'We fully expect the Square to be full to overflowing with thousands of supporters. There will be banners, flags, drum majorettes and bands. Because we want people in the Square at 11 am we are laying on entertainment before the speakers get under way.'

On the platform with the Director of the Society, James Loring, will be Jack Ashley, MP, vigorous campaigner on behalf of the disabled, and fellow MP's Lewis Carter-Jones, and the Hon Patrick Jenkin. Putting in a plea on behalf of parents will be Executive Council member Mrs Eileen Milnes, whose daughter was born spastic 21 years ago. Bill Hargreaves, having flown in from a conference in Japan an hour earlier, will speak on behalf of handicapped people.

The speakers will sign the Campaign Petition, which

● Continued on Page 9, with rally map, programme of events, and list of rest centres.

ACHIEVEMENT...



THIS is the picture that says it all. Mrs Pamela Annal, of Nottingham, has won the Society's annual special Achievement Award for Spastics, and hugging her is one of the reasons why! For despite increasing disabilities caused by athetosis and arthritis, Pamela has three foster children. Said Tricia Seymour, 16, with pride: 'It's fantastic, I knew my mother would win—but I think all the people nominated deserved a prize!'

The Achievement Award presentation and judging took place

Award for foster mother

as Spastics News went to press, so turn to Page 2 of this month's issue for the finalists' stories. Full picture coverage will appear in the next issue.

As well as the cup, Mrs Annal received a £250 cheque, and she plans to spend some of the cash on a luxurious reclining chair.

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ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FINALISTS

Pamela Annal won the Cup — but competition was very keen

The foster mother

MRS Pamela Annal, aged 48, of 22 Moorholme Drive, Wollaton Park, Nottingham. Nominated by Mr W. M. C. Hargreaves, and Mr David Branch.

When Pamela was born, doctors despaired that she would be able to do anything. Not only did Pamela suffer from athetosis but this affected her legs, her hands and arms and her speech. Always fond of children, she spent one year convincing the authorities that she was capable of undertaking a nursery nurse course. At 21 she became fully qualified, and since then has worked in several places, ending as Deputy Matron at the Chorley Wood College for the Blind in Hertfordshire.

When Pam got married, she realised she was unable to have any children of her own and so, in spite of increasing disabilities brought on by arthritis in the neck, she fostered three children. At present Pam is much more severely disabled and has to wear a very uncomfortable neck support constantly.

His long struggle

MR Maurice Collins, aged 34, of 56 Barmouth Road, Eston, Cleveland. Nominated by Mr Eric Pearson, Manager of the Cleveland Spastics Society and Welfare Centre, Acklam Road, Middlesbrough.

Maurice was the third child in an ironstone miner's family. Miners' houses in this area were of very poor standard at the time and, in addition, Maurice's father was forced to go on the dole

due to closure of the mine, so Maurice was deprived of everything even a healthy boy needed. He could not walk or talk, and was ridiculed by other children because of his handicaps.

When Maurice grew up, his struggle for an existence started. For four years he was without work, and he took over a garden allotment. Since then he has struggled to maintain himself with great setbacks. He also helps others.

Independent Susan

MISS Susan Dickson, aged 28, of 5 Trafalgar Court, Nelson Street, London E6. Nominated by Miss Linda Berwick, of Grundy Street, London E14 (a past winner of the Award).

Susan had a difficult early childhood. She had little mobility and when she was eventually able to walk, was very unsteady. Susan's father died when she was 10 and Mrs Dickson was left to struggle on with a great shortage of money as best she could. In 1975 Mrs Dickson became very ill. It was

later diagnosed as lung cancer and she became very infirm. Sue did her best to cope with her needs and dealt with many of the responsibilities of the household. She gave her mother loving care and attention. When her mother died, though very distressed, she said that it had been a 'marvellous experience' which had brought her very close to her mother.

Although money is still scarce, Sue copes with her daily life and is thoroughly independent.

Helping others

MISS Elizabeth Greeley, of 25 Sheffield Terrace, London W8. Nominated by Miss Janet Harding and Mr J. Hirschfeld, who are both youth officers, Westminster Area.

Liz is handicapped in her hands, arms and legs, and has great difficulty with her speech. She finds walking difficult and has minimal control of her fingers, but has the qualities of reliability, good organisational ability, mental stamina and courage. She has come to terms with her handicap and has helped others to understand the needs of handicapped young people. Liz has established a club in Westminster for the physically handicapped and able-bodied.

Overcame barriers

MR Jonathan Griffiths, aged 41, of 82 Paisley Avenue, Blackbrook, St Helens, Merseyside. Nominated by Miss Sue Norris, of Buckingham Road, Liverpool, Mr David Branch and Miss M. S. Champion, Personnel Officer, United Biscuits Ltd, Binns Road, Liverpool.

Jonathan's cerebral palsy renders him unable to stand or walk without support, unable to speak without the greatest of difficulty, and only able to write, draw, paint and use his hands with a tremendous amount of arduous concentration. Jonathan's determination for independence has given him a 'never say die' attitude and this, together with his sheer guts and determination has enabled him to overcome many barriers.

He holds a responsible job in a computer programming department. An example of his independence is that he refused help to pitch and strike a tent at 6 am in a howling gale and rainstorm.

A popular citizen

MR Alan Mewton, aged 45, of 19 Castleton Close, Mannamead, Plymouth. Nominated by Mr Dennis Paull, Managing Director, M. Thomas Motors Ltd, 19 Union Street, Plymouth.

Despite the fact that Alan was born a deaf-mute spastic, he has shown an interest in cars since an early age. He helped regularly in a garage since the age of 10. When he

became older, he showed such an avid interest in the work that he was eventually employed. Recently he received a watch to mark 21 years of service to the company.

He is extremely well-liked by his fellow workers and has been an asset to his employers. Alan has overcome great handicaps to become a very useful and popular citizen.

Young man with 'grit'

MR James O'Neil, aged 22, of 28 Braid Green, Livingston, Scotland, was nominated by his father, Mr S. O. O'Neill, general manager, New Trinity Centre, Scottish Council for Spastics, Edinburgh.

James attended The Spastics Society's Thomas Delarue School, in Tonbridge, Kent, and was provided with a spinal support to allow him to be in a sitting position. He had to learn to pick up his pen and pencil with his mouth and, with patience, to put it into his hand to write.

While at school he spent most of his holidays in bed to repair the damage done by severe pressure on his shoulder. He eventually obtained 'O' levels in five subjects. In 1977 he passed his OND Business Studies Course and at present is pursuing an HND course.

Although in constant pain from the open pressure sore on his back, he has overcome it with pure grit and determination. His intention is to attain qualifications so that he can apply for admission to Edinburgh University.

Successful career

MISS T. Susan Watkin, aged 35, of Tudor Lodge, Warren Lane, Grantham, was nominated by Mr C. J. Murden, of 2 De Ligne Drive, Harlaxton, Grantham, Lincs, and 10 others.

When Susan was born her parents were told that she would have to spend her life lying flat on her back. Yet she has managed to live a very full life and has more than made her mark. As she developed she recognised that her future depended on her personal effort. While always aware of the limitations of her physical activity, she has gone to the utmost lengths to ensure that they do not prevent her enjoying a full life. Her sweet nature compels people to be happy in her company.

Not only has she greatly overcome her serious disabilities but she has obtained a career which

many people would have considered beyond her powers. She gained seven 'O' levels, two 'A' levels, went to teacher training college and has been a specialist teacher of remedial groups at St Hugh's Secondary Modern School, Grantham, since 1969.

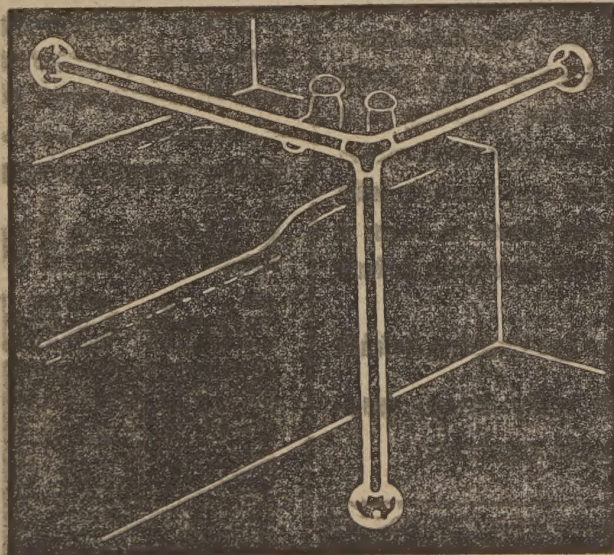
Life of activity

MR John Walker, aged 34, of Sanbryn, Chorley Road, Chase Terrace, Walsall, was nominated by his father, Mr W. J. Walker.

John is handicapped, yet he does a full time job as a weighbridge clerk. In addition to this he is a town councillor, a lay preacher at the local Methodist church, and pursues an enormous list of activities.

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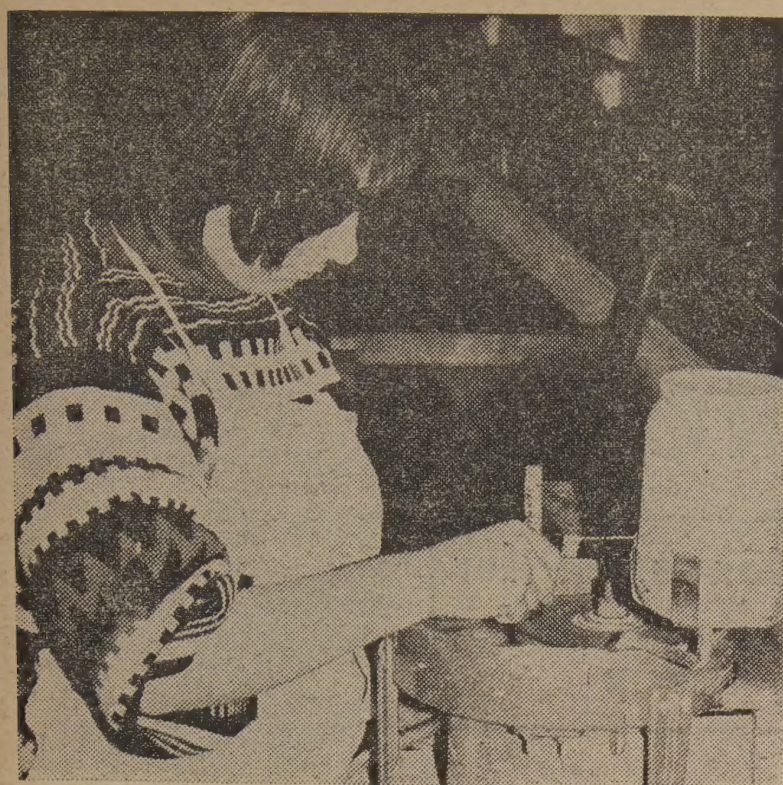
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LAPIDARY is the skilled craft of polishing stones by hand, and it takes great care and concentration as Jennifer Palmer, of Blackpool, demonstrates grinding a stone to set in a pendant.



MALCOLM Walker, lecturer in literacy and language development, uses a speech trainer with Mark Evans, who is deaf and registered blind. On arrival at Beaumont, Mark was almost inarticulate and could only read a few simple words. After intensive personal tuition, Mark's progress is impressive—and he has also gained in self-confidence.



GREGORY McRae, of Tottenham, London, tackles the washing-up after a cookery session in the carefully designed kitchen.

After special education, what next? Beaumont College has the answer

WHEN students arrive at The Spastics Society's Beaumont College of Further Education they come from all over the country and all kinds of families. One would-be entrant arrived in a Maserati because the

second Rolls - Royce was out of action due to the chauffeur having left the lights on.

What they do share, says principal George Marshall, are 'physical handicaps ranging from moderate to severe, poor mobility and hand

control, often with sensory handicaps and always with intellectual impairment and a degree of emotional immaturity.'

Beaumont in Lancaster is breaking new ground with its curriculum because it is not a job or a vocational training centre. Instead it seeks to identify skills and allow them to blossom.

It is a special college—unique in concept—providing an alternative for severely handicapped students, few of whom have any real expectations of holding down a job. Were it not for Beaumont the future would almost certainly mean a transition straight from a special school to life at home, or possibly a place in a day centre.

Said George Marshall: 'What we are doing here is what we have been preaching for years: after special education what next? We may only be offering a year's course but it is a step in the right direction, and a vital step. It gives everyone a chance, parents and local authorities as well as the students, to assess how they have done so far and how they will cope in the future. There is a breathing space which we believe will improve the quality of the lives they lead when they leave.'

The college is in its second term of operation. A year ago the building was the shell left by the old Lancaster Training Centre. It has been revamped with an Invacar garage remodelled to provide a

PICTURE left: Jean Killinger, lecturer in numeracy, explains the intricacies of a subject that has most of us baffled—the British Rail timetable. At the start of the course Jean found that virtually all her students were unable to handle money confidently.

smart club room. An independence flat for two girls is ready for occupation, and eventually it is hoped to take between 70 and 80 students into the campus. So far there are 63, all

Cont. on Page 4



THERE is sex equality in the kitchen at Beaumont and boys take their turn doing the cooking in the activities of daily living department. Here Terence Jubb, from Nailsworth, Gloucester, successfully tosses a pancake.



TOM Moloney, of Stretford, Manchester, and Janette Pearson, of Cambridge, saw up a length of timber which they will turn into wood sculpture in the craft department.



BARRY Murphy, from Hyde, Cheshire, critically appraises his handiwork polishing rock samples. A display case in the main entrance at Beaumont shows the skilled silver jewellery also produced by students.



GEORGE Marshall, Beaumont's principal: 'Setting up Beaumont College has been very, very hard work—but it is an exciting project and the hard work is by no means over!'



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SN Ap2

'The patience of Parliament is not infinite'

Time for action to save babies from handicap

SINCE 1970 there has been increasing Parliamentary activity on provisions for disabled people, spearheaded by the All Party Disablement Group; but by and large this has centred on a few specific areas. The main ones have been: first, full implementation of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act; second, improvements in social security; third, education and employment; fourth, improvements in technology; and fifth, special lobbies for individual groups such as thalidomide children.

Members of The Spastics Society may well feel that in many of these areas far less has been achieved than they would wish. If so, Members of Parliament certainly share their frustration; unfortunately for the last four years improvements have had to be squeezed from a determined, if not wholly unsympathetic, Treasury.

It is perhaps surprising that in such times Members of Parliament did not immediately turn to thoughts of reducing future costs by preventing handicap, rather than intervening with assistance later. It is fair to say that by and large they have appeared

unaware of the possibilities of prevention, especially among children. On the contrary the general impression has been that advances in medicine were more likely to increase the number of those surviving with severe handicaps; for a generation of those with severe spina bifida whom doctors had perhaps too zealously saved at birth are approaching adulthood.

Resources

It was James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society and Duncan Guthrie then Director of Action Research for the Crippled Child, who first suggested to us that the prevention of many handicaps was within our grasp, and what was lacking was not expertise but political will and resources. We were genuinely astonished at the mortality figures for children in the United Kingdom: both the difference between the death rate here and in countries such as Sweden but also, possibly more significantly, the difference between areas in the UK around

A special article by Lewis Carter-Jones, MP for Eccles, and Peter Mitchell, research assistant to the All Party Disablement Group

certain centres of excellence and elsewhere. What improvement there had been over the years had been centred not only on a few affluent areas but, across the country, on the higher socio-economic classes. After 30 years of a National Health Service the disparity in health care had incredibly increased.

Mortality was not, however, the prime interest. We were advised that evidence from Sweden showed that the measures which had reduced perinatal mortality there had also reduced the incidence of child handicap: that the prevention of death did not lead to an increase in those surviving with a severe handicap so much as to a decrease in the handicaps of all those who survived. In crude terms what was required to save one life would prevent handicap in two to three

other babies. On this hypothesis, not only would a reduction in the mortality rate to that in Sweden save 4,000 lives, it would free 10,000 others from lives of handicap.

The cost

James Loring has estimated that at current prices, it costs £4 million to keep a person in a Spastics Society residential home from the age of 16 to 65. Clearly the 10,000 annually we hope to save from handicap would not all need such care. But if they did the cost in their life-time would be twice the total annual bill on personal social services. The financial advantages of prevention need no further emphasis. From October 1976, the Order Paper of the House of Commons received a torrent of Parliamentary Questions on all aspects of perinatal care. Although the reaction inside the House seemed muted, the publicity led to contacts with numerous outside bodies and individuals whose information led to still further questions. By May 1977 more than enough material had been garnered for an Adjournment Debate in which a clear demand was made for the Treasury to respond not only in the interests of humanity but of economic sense.

'Open door'

Over the months it became apparent that we were pushing at an open door in the Department of Health. We became, however, frustrated at the way the door, although open, appeared to be revolving since we never seemed to get anywhere. A favourite Ministerial reply was the imminent publication of a paper which would assuage all our worries.

Now a paper is something of which we have never felt the lack. In the last two years documents have flowed from the Department of Health in a

never ending stream. First to appear was 'Prevention and Health—Everybody's Business' in February 1976. This was followed in August by Health Circular (76)40 enclosing the OPPE Report on the prevention of early neonatal mortality and morbidity (which the Secretary of State had received two years before hand). Then at Christmas 1976 appeared the Court Report 'Fit for the Future' on the child health services (which described infant mortality as a holocaust).

Promises

After this there was a lull in which we were continually promised the first follow up paper to 'Prevention and Health,' this 'Reducing the Risk: Safer Pregnancy and Childbirth' finally appeared in August 1977; and to wind up the year there was a White Paper entitled 'Prevention and Health' in December.

During this time there had also been two general documents on the Health and Personal Social Services: 'Priorities' in March 1976, and 'The Way Forward' in September 1977.

Inactivity

Unfortunately the quality of the documents produced in 1977 show a clear decline on those in 1976. Inactivity is a sure recipe for deterioration and the Department of Health is not immune. At times it is difficult to diagnose the reasons for the minimal progress. At first it appeared to be Treasury reluctance to provide funds; but the Minister for Health gave an assurance that more resources were not really required. It is clear, however, that a profound lethargy has overwhelmed both the Government and Health Authorities. The patience of Parliament is not infinite; increasing numbers of MPs are now showing concern for mortality rates in their constituencies. 1978 must be the year when words are replaced by action.

School surveys Rochdale

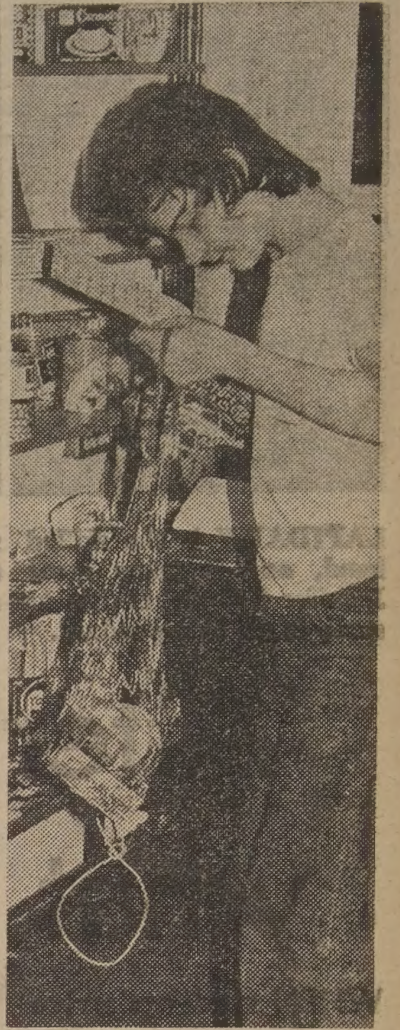
PUPILS from Fieldhouse School for the Physically Handicapped in Rochdale have been carrying out an access survey of the town's public buildings.

Some of the 20 children taking part (aged 11 to 16) are in wheelchairs. They took photographs and made sketches of the problems they

encountered and interviewed other disabled people in the town.

Fieldhouse will enter the final project in a schools' competition, held by the Silver Jubilee Committee on Improving Access for Disabled People. The first prize is £75, plus an invitation to meet Jimmy Savile at the BBC.

Beaumont College



ACTIVITIES of daily living and numeracy education go hand in hand at Beaumont as Terence Jubb, from Nailsworth, Gloucester, buys groceries.

Cont. from Page 3

sponsored by their local authorities, and only three of whom have come from the Society's own schools.

Many projects are still in their infancy such as a college newspaper. For many the basic skills of daily living—reading, writing and the ability to handle money confidently are still a priority.

There is the feeling of new-found freedom—when lectures are over it is up to the students to a great degree how they spend their time. They have to notify staff when they go out, when they will return.

Before enrolling, the students come with their parents to meet Mr Marshall. 'It is a two-way thing to see if we like them and they like us. After all, it is not statutory education and they are within their rights to reject us!'

There are laboratories for activities of daily living and there is an ambitious craft department where students can learn lapidary; photography focuses round the newly purchased £200 camera, and there is an environmental and social studies unit.

After an induction period of about two weeks, students move on to concentrate on subjects, with extra time given either to those they particularly enjoy or in which they need extra tuition.

Beaumont's quiet rural air is belied by the proximity of one of Lancaster's toughest housing areas, and while the College stood disused, vandals looked on it as their playground. Now it takes on the new role of helping those who once faced a bleak future to take their place in society on their own terms.



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• On the film set at Ingfield Manor School, Susan Hampshire is pictured left with her five co-stars who will be seen on the giant screen throughout Britain. They are Mandy Farrell, Melanie Johnston, Mark Lane, Joanna Foxley and James Burgess, all aged between nine and 13, and all thoroughly enjoying acting in the Society's new film.



• THE film's director, Peter Pickering, discusses the script with Susan Hampshire. The National Coal Board is making the film in conjunction with The Spastics Society.

The film role that means so much to Susan

MILLIONS of cinema-goers throughout the country will see actress Susan Hampshire in the Society's 'Save a Baby' Campaign film but few know that behind her moving performance she hides the agony of a dead baby.

On the set at the Society's Ingfield Manor School, Sussex, where the film was made, Susan said: 'There is a personal reason for making this

film — my daughter Victoria died when she was a day old. Had she lived she would not have been well. All women can identify very, very strongly with this campaign because when they are pregnant they all fear something may be the matter with their baby.

'I had very good protection in pregnancy but through mishap Victoria didn't live and so I passionately want

to help other mothers have healthy babies. It is a simple maternal impulse.'

After the baby's death in a clinic in Switzerland, Susan was left to sleep for a week in order to recover before going back home to her son, Christopher, now aged seven.

'I have always wanted to have more than one child but at my age, with my medical history, I know it would be unwise and now my marriage has ended, adoption agencies won't allow me to adopt although I have tried.'

In the 10 minute film Susan emphasises the theme of the campaign, that thousands of babies are born needlessly handicapped when research has shown that at least 40 per cent of cases of cerebral palsy could be prevented.

Susan herself suffers from dyslexia and said: 'This is a congenital brain condition which, it is thought, could be caused through lack of oxygen.' Sufferers from dyslexia find it impossible to learn to read at the usual age because the letters appear transposed. It makes the job of reading a script quite an undertaking and Susan did not relax until her stint was over.

She has just finished a run at the Savoy Theatre in 'Man and Superman' for the Royal Shakespeare Company, and after Easter goes into rehearsal for a new play opening at the Hampstead Theatre Club which, if successful, will transfer to the West End.

'This film has come just at the right time. I help the Stars Organisation for Spastics whenever I can and I try not to work when Christopher is on holidays. As one show had finished and another had not started, this was ideal.'

The film is being made in conjunction with the National Coal Board, which made a film last year featuring the Sheffield Spastics Group and which was seen in 800 cinemas by 2½ million people. The director is Peter Pickering and the producer is Robert Kruger.

Liz Cook

Happy homecoming for spastic skiers

A CHEERFUL party of holidaymakers arrived back at Gatwick on March 11 at the end of another successful ski-ing holiday for spastics. Third from left in the picture is Dr David Morris, Chairman of the Spastics Ski Club, who led the party.

The 10-day holiday was spent at Caspaggia in the Italian Alps, and a package deal had been booked which included hire of equipment. Taking part were 22 spastic people from all over Britain, together with nine members of staff. Ages ranged from 13 to 30.

Rusty Wright, the Society's Recreations Officer who accompanied the party paid tribute to the high standard of accommodation and the

service provided by the travel agency which booked the tour.

'The Hotel Kennedy where we stayed was excellent and the staff most helpful,' he told Spastics News. 'And the local Swan's representative was very good to us.'

Swan's Travel also donated a cup, to be awarded annually to the best spastic skier. This year it was won by Anthony Griffin, 18, from the Society's Thomas Delarue School.

All members of the party were out on the slopes most days and there were no broken limbs or other injuries. Their skill was put to the test on the final day and three members of the group were awarded the two-star badge of the Italian Ski School. A further nine were presented with the Italian one-star badge and eight qualified for the one-star badge of the British Ski School.



Learning to spell 'generous'



CHILDREN at East Street C of E school, Andover, Hampshire, held a sponsored spell-in which raised £106 for The Spastics Society. Picture shows Bob

Kemsley, local area organiser receiving the cheque from Geraldine Hartley and George Norridge.

Later, children from the top form of East Street school were able to visit

the Saxon Wood school for spastics at Basingstoke and spend half a day with the pupils.

Picture by Andover Advertiser.

Society will always remember Wilfred Pickles

WILFRED Pickles, the Yorkshire comedian-actor who was one of the first big names to lend his support to The Spastics Society, died on March 27 at the age of 73.

It was Wilfred Pickles who was behind what is now

known as the Boxes and Beacons department of the Society, and in 1955 the Society's school at Duddington, Stamford, Lincs, opened and was named after him.

Mr R. A. Pedder, the headmaster, said: 'It was a great shock to hear of his death and we are very sad because Mr

Pickles had always been such a good friend of the school. He would come twice a year to the school on formal occasions, and often in between. On our 21st anniversary speech day he and his wife Mabel were guests and spent a long time chatting to the children and their parents. His own son had died of infantile paralysis when he was seven.

'Wilfred Pickles will be very greatly missed.'



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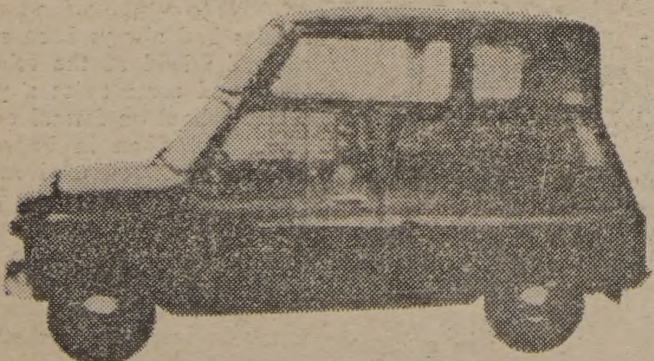
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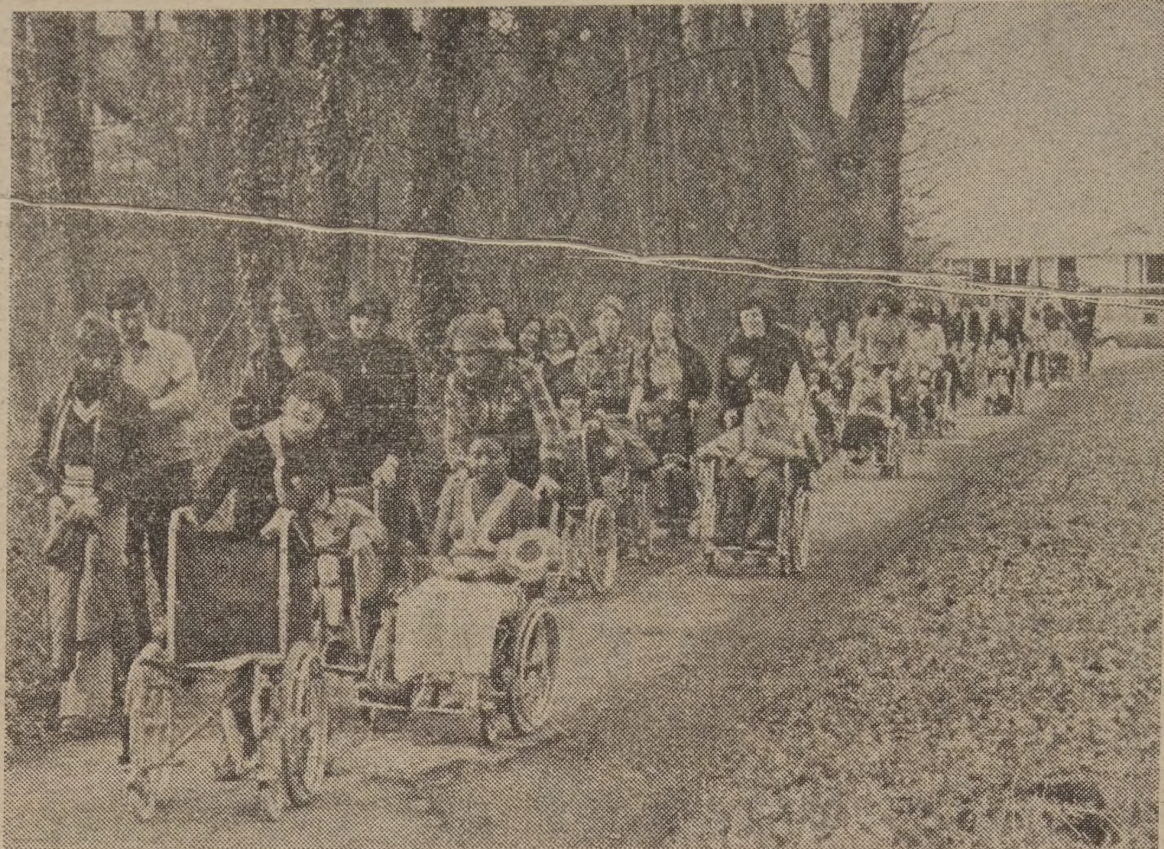
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SN Ap7



• IT is 2.15 pm, the Queen is expected to pass by that afternoon, and the children of Ingfield Manor are on the move — down the school drive, their flags and rosettes at the ready.



Pictures:
RAY CHRISTOPHER



• BY 2.30 the procession was making its way along the narrow path opposite the school entrance. Seventy children in wheelchairs and buggies hoping for a close encounter of a royal kind.



• AT 2.45 pm the children were in position and settling down with happy anticipation — better too early than too late. The sun is shining for all its worth — a day fit for a Queen!



• 3.50 and here she is! The Royal car has been ordered to stop by the Queen and the children of Ingfield Manor are jubilant as Paul Corker gets ready to hand over the flowers.



● FLAG in hand and proudly wearing his cub scout uniform, Christopher Rumsey, 10, waits patiently. Where is the Queen? She should be here by now!

3.30 pm has been and gone and still no sign of the Queen, but the children of Ingfield Manor sit tight waiting for the magic moment. But will the Queen notice her young loyal subjects? Will she make an undulated stop just for them?

Our Royal Encounter

Queen carried a little bit of Ingfield Manor in her heart after an official visit to Sussex in March. For the caring children had seen the children of The Spastics Society's school at Ingfield waiting by the roadside, and rewarded their patience by stopping the car long enough to give a posy.

The children had been waiting over an hour on a garage forecourt near the school to see the Queen as she passed on her way to a hospital school in Chichester. There was no guarantee that the Queen would stop — but just in case, the children had a posy to present to

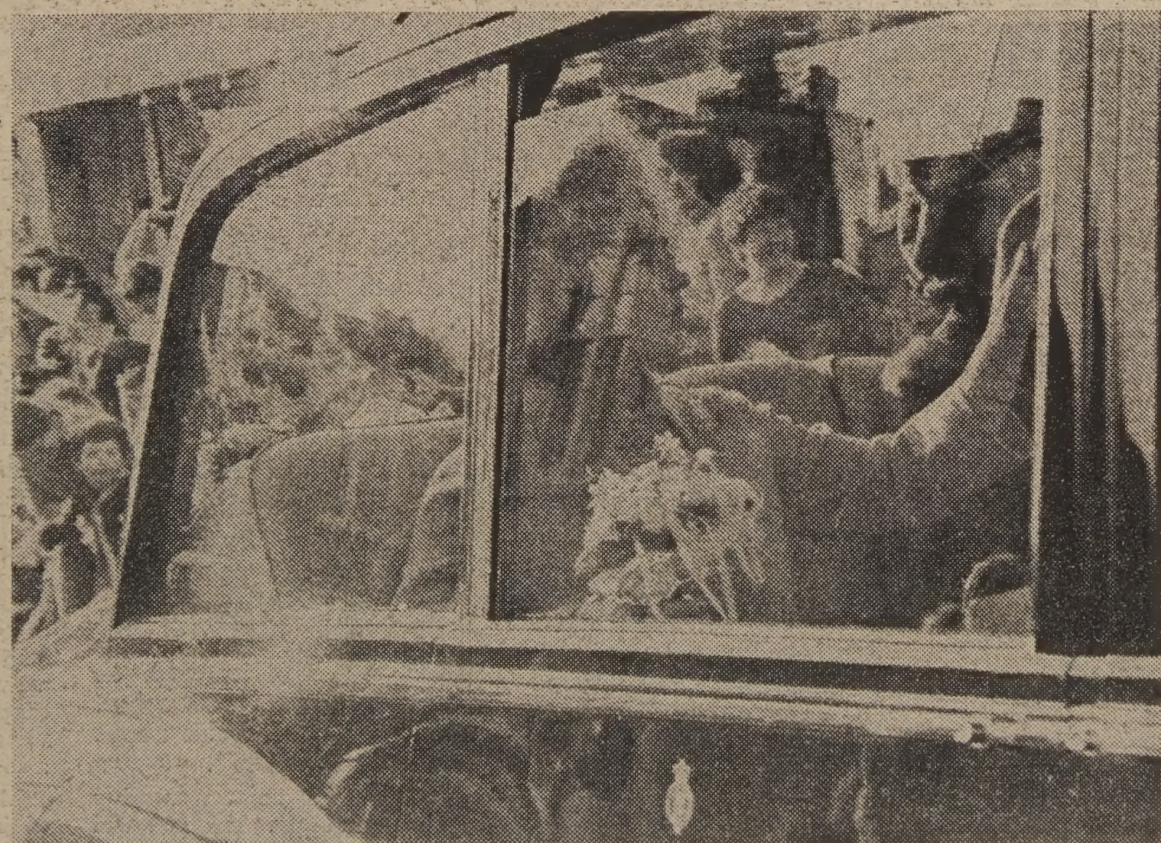
her. She waved and cheered the Queen signalled to her driver and the car pulled up beside Paul.

The lady-in-waiting took the posy and gave it to the Queen whose heart was obviously touched by the enthusiasm and happiness of the Ingfield children at seeing her.

She returned their waves and smiles with her own and then the car moved off. Perhaps the Queen, who had been in Chichester earlier and was on her way to another formal engagement, received many magnificent bouquets that day — but none gathered and given with such simple affection and loyalty.



● 3.45 pm and the Queen MUST arrive soon! The anxiety is clear on Paul Corker's face for he has been chosen for the all-important task of handing over the flowers. American student-teacher Beth Gallagher waits with Paul to help the hand-over — IF the car stops!



● THE wait was worthwhile after all. The children of Ingfield have seen the Queen and she has their flowers, which she holds up to show them. Then with one last wave she was gone — leaving 70 very happy children with a memory that will last a lifetime.

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SN Ap9

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SN Ap19

Briefing . . .

on books, aids, holidays, services,
to help you and your family

Hide the bed and save living space



DISABLED people who cannot manage to climb stairs often need to sleep in the family living room. But in a small house, a bed can take up valuable living space during the daytime.

The Space-Saving Bed Centre has many bright ideas about dual-purpose furniture. Their beds can be folded against the wall under a bookshelf, disguised as sofas, or cocktail cabinets and tucked away into cupboards.

Double and single beds can be swung into a vertical position, to live behind closed doors during the day and lifted down ready made up with sheets and blankets in the evening.

The hinges are specially

Pictures show (top right) the standard cupboard unit as it looks with the bed neatly folded away inside, top left the doors open to reveal a comfortable double bed and (bottom) the same cupboard used for a single bed, together with different types of shelving or hanging space.

Further information from the Space-Saving Bed Centre, 13-14 Golden Square, London W1.

designed to take the weight of the bed and the lifting operation is simple enough to be carried out by a person in a wheelchair.

Deadline for the literary contest

CLOSING date for The Spastics Society's literary contest is April 15. The competition is open to people with any type of handicap dating from birth or early childhood.

There are separate categories for children, adolescents and adults, as well as the ever-popular poetry section. In addition the Director will award a special prize for a contribution which he considers to be outstanding.

Crisis aid

A ONE-DAY conference on Crisis Intervention will be held at the King's Fund Centre in London on Thursday, May 25. This will be of interest to staff in the mental health fields of health and social services concerned with community-based care aimed at avoiding unnecessary hospital admissions. There will be discussion of the different ways in which mental health crisis intervention teams are being developed.

Further details from Miss Andrea Whittaker, Project Assistant, King's Fund Centre, 126 Albert Street, London NW1 7NF.

US probe

REHABILITATION International of New York has devised a questionnaire aimed at letting disabled people have their say in the organisation's future plans. The questions include:

What do you regard as the most important issue or problem faced by disabled people today?

What is your position on the need for a separate organisation of disabled people?

What do you think will be the most important issue or problem faced by disabled people during the 1980s?

What long range actions do you propose?

Further details from Rehabilitation International, 432 Park Avenue South, New York 10016, USA.

Helping your garden grow with ideas and advice

MANY disabled people can enjoy gardening under the right conditions and they can now keep in touch with fellow-enthusiasts through the Garden Club. The Club, started in 1973, is affiliated to the Gardens for the Disabled Trust, founded in 1967 by Mrs R. S. Kinsey, of Headcorn, Kent.

The trust aims to help organisations and has given grants to residential centres such as Cheshire Homes and to special schools for raised flower beds, adapted tools, and other equipment.

The Garden Club is for individuals and has members all over the United Kingdom and even some in New Zealand. Some members live in their own homes, others in residential

centres, and the club aims to foster the attitude that gardening as a pastime can continue in spite of disabling diseases and old age.

Exchange of ideas and communication are important to the housebound and the garden club acts as a central source of technical information for anyone who may have gardening problems. Most of the club's activities have to be carried out by correspondence, but it is hoped that outings to show gardens can be arranged.

The club can arrange small discounts off the purchase of special tools and some plants. Members exchange seeds, cuttings, bulbs, etc, amongst themselves. There is a large library of books on all aspects of gardening which can be borrowed free of charge.

A newsletter is published quarterly, edited by well-known author Betty Massingham. There are articles on horticulture from the point of view of the disabled and on general subjects.

Annual membership rates are 50p for an individual subscription, 60p for a married couple, £2 for groups and £15 for life membership.

Said Mrs Patricia Cooper, Garden Club Secretary: 'We should very much welcome any members of The Spastics Society—I expect some of them already belong.'

Individual disabled people who would like to join the Garden Club, are invited to contact Mrs Cooper at Goddards Green House, Benenden, Kent.

Schools and Centres interested in the Gardens for the Disabled Trust should contact: Mrs P. Tallents, Moon Green, Wittersham, Tenterden, Kent TN30 7PS.

Films for anglers

ANGLING for disabled people is the subject of three films made by the Disabled Living Foundation in co-operation with the National Anglers Council and sponsored by Midland Bank group.

The first film is on Coarse Angling, with a commentary by Richard Baker. This includes access to rivers, lakes, gravel pits, canals and private stretches of water. Aids to angling such as multi-purpose trolleys and stools, telescopic rods and landing nets, bait aids and bite alarms are shown in use. Limbless, blind and paraplegic anglers are shown in action and the film shows a competition between physically handicapped and able-bodied fishermen.

Access

Another film on Game Fishing shows various ways in which disabled people can gain access to salmon, trout and other game by means of ramps, specially built platforms, floating pontoons and hoists which swing out over the water.

Filming locations include suburban reservoirs, a Cotswold lakeside and the famous Scottish salmon beats.

The third film is about Sea Angling and shows that des-

pite problems of getting aboard, disabled people can participate on equal terms with their able-bodied fellow-anglers.

The films run for 34, 32 and 23 minutes respectively. They can be hired from Town and Country Productions Ltd, 21 Cheyne Row, Chelsea SW3 5HP, for a booking fee of £5.40 each.

Fishing book

A book entitled 'A guide to fishing facilities for disabled anglers', has also been produced. It puts handicapped anglers in touch with existing facilities and lists more than a hundred fishing locations. Available price £1.00 (including postage) from the National Anglers' Council, 5 Cowgate, Peterborough PE1 1LR.

Equipment catalogue

A NEW and comprehensive catalogue of Rehabilitation Equipment has been published by Carter (J. and A.) Ltd. It is attractively printed in full colour and contains 32 pages of illustrations and information on over 200 aids and accessories, fully indexed and divided into sections for ease of reference.

These include 'Self Help', 'Patient Care', 'Exercisers', 'Children's Items', 'Commodities and Toilet Aids', 'Wheelchairs', 'Bathroom Aids', 'Walking Aids' and 'Traction Equipment'.

The catalogue is designed to help everybody concerned with the physical well-being of the disabled. It is available free from Carters (J. and A.) Ltd, Alfred Street, Westbury, Wilts BA13 3DZ.

Access in Sheffield

THE Sheffield Co-ordinating Committee for the Disabled is holding an Access for the Disabled Exhibition at Sheffield Town Hall from June 10-16, 1978.

The main focus of the exhibition will be on access but will also include literature and a display of aids for the disabled. Designs and layouts of accommodation will also be on show.

The town hall itself is a new building and has excellent access for disabled visitors.

Night out

THE Lansbury Players, a London dramatic company, is presenting 'Lord Arthur Savile's Crime' in April and has offered to donate the proceeds of one performance to the Society's 'Save a Baby' campaign.

The play will be shown at the Curtain Theatre, Commercial Street, London E1, and three rows of seats will be reserved for The Spastics Society on Thursday, April 20.

Further details from Aileen Barker, Spastics Shops, London Office and Depot, 2-4 Court Yard, Eltham, London SE9 5PZ (Tel. 01-850 7290).

North West looks to the future

LIFE for the Disabled in the 1980's—Positive Thinking for Positive Living—is the theme of The Spastics Society's North West Regional Conference to be held in the Little Court Suite, Owen's Park, Wilmslow Road, Fallowfield, Manchester, on Saturday, April 15.

A talk entitled 'You don't change institutions, you provide alternatives,' will be given by Mrs Anne Marie Aita Mulligan and Mr Jim Aita Mulligan of the Human Services Educators, Omaha, Nebraska; Mr Chris Dunk, design consultant, Research Unit for the Handicapped, St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, will speak about aids in the 1980's.

There will be two speeches about mobility. The first will be by Mr Barry James, secretary of Motability, on personal transport for the disabled in the 1980's; the second will be by Mr Nigel Smith, senior regional officer, North West, The Spastics Society; and secretary of the Working Party on the Disabled in Greater

Manchester, 1977, on mobility for all.

In the afternoon Dr George Scrimshaw, chairman of the North West Regional Co-ordinating Committee, will give his review of the year.

This will be followed by a view of how things should be for the handicapped in 1980 by Mrs Eileen Milnes, the parent of a spastic child, Miss Nan Berrington-Jones, senior adviser, physically handicapped, Liverpool Social Services, and Mr Chris Davies, a disabled student.

Mr James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society, will speak on the role of voluntary organisations in the 1980s. The conference chairman will be the Rt Rev E. R. Wickham, Bishop of Middleton.

Mrs Marie Gallagher, vice-chairman of the Regional Co-ordinating Committee, will propose a vote of thanks.



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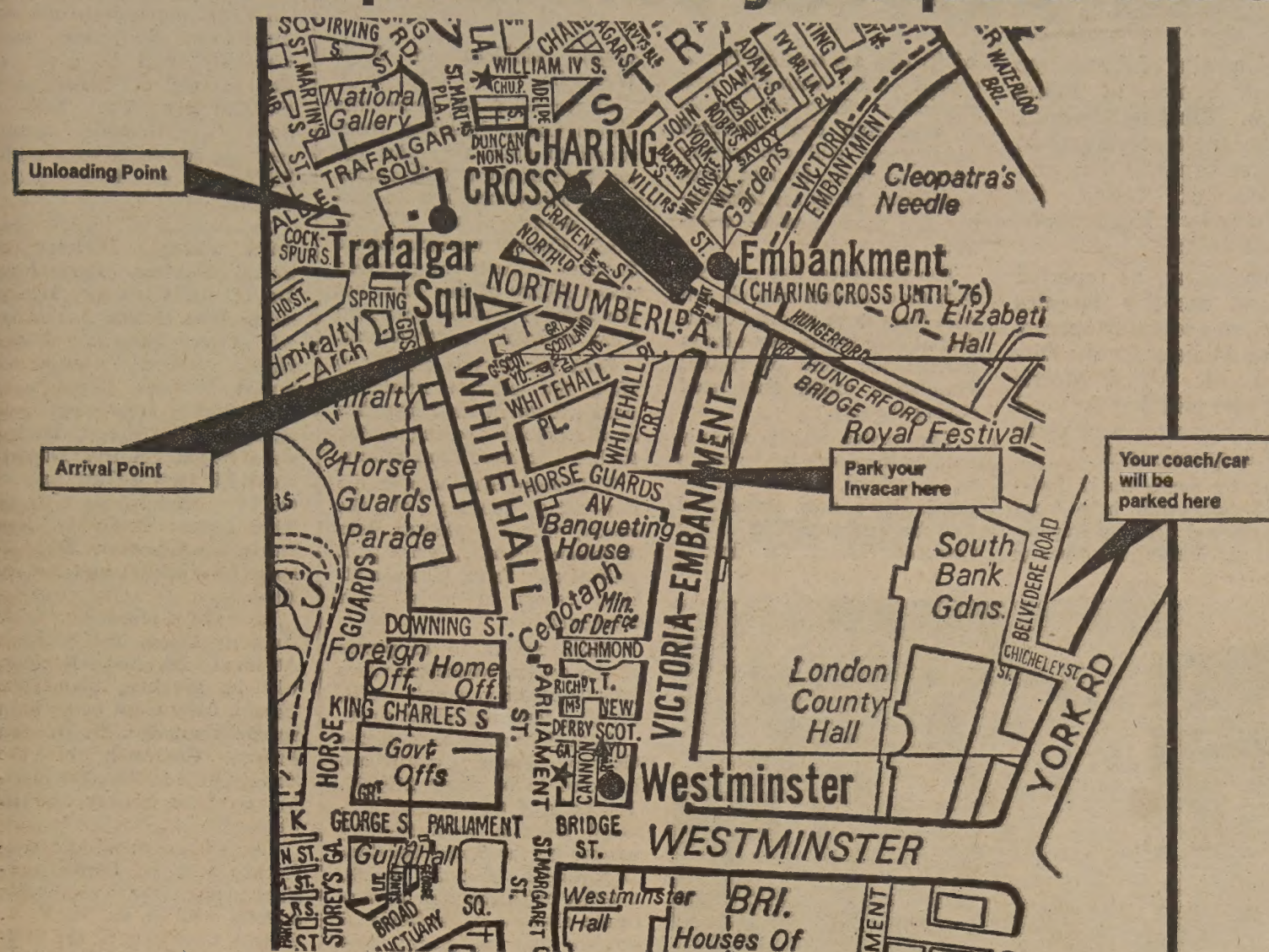
Voice for passengers

AN organisation has been formed to represent the interests of disabled people who do not drive. Called the National Disabled Passengers Association, it publishes a regular newsletter to keep widely dispersed members in touch with each other.

For further details contact the secretary Hilary A. Jones, 16 Calder Court, Britannia Road, Surbiton, Surrey.

SUPPORT THE 'SAVE A BABY' RALLY

The place: Trafalgar Square. The date: April 23rd



COMING to the 'Save a Baby' rally in Trafalgar Square? Here is a plan to help you park your Invacar or car and find your way to the rally.

Continued from Page 1 — the Society's plans for the massive 'Save a Baby' Rally in London.

aims to collect a record-breaking five million signatures by the end of the year.

The speeches over, Bill and five other spastic people will be pushed in wheelchairs down Whitehall to No 10 Downing Street to hand in a resolution passed at the rally urging more government help in preventing handicap.

They were to have been at the head of an army of people marching to focus attention on the need to apply available knowledge in the fight to save babies from being born disabled. The march had to be cancelled because of the Chief Commissioner's ruling against public demonstrations due to the violence attending National Front rallies.

There may yet be a last minute change of heart by the authorities, in which case the organisers are geared to getting the rally on the march. Otherwise when the six wheelchairs are pushed back down Whitehall the most momentous single public event staged by the Society will be over.

Programme of events

HERE is the timetable of events for The Spastics Society's massive rally in Trafalgar Square, London, on April 23, in support of the 'Save a Baby' Campaign.

11.00 am onwards.—Arrival at Trafalgar Square.

11.15.—Band plays.

12.00.—Opening speech by Mr James Loring, the Director of The Spastics Society, followed by short speeches by invited guests, including:—Mr Jack Ashley, MP, Mr Lewis Carter-Jones, MP, the Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin, MP, Mrs E. M. Milnes, a member of the Stars Organisation for Spastics, Mr W. M. C. Hargreaves, MBE.

12.40 (approx).—Signing of the petition by all speakers.

12.50.—Proceed to Downing Street to present the resolution to No 10.

1.00.—Handing in of the resolution.

1.15 onwards.—Rally ends. Return to transport either at Belvedere Road or to the boarding area in Trafalgar Square.

Rest centres

A NETWORK of rest centres has been provided for disabled people who are coming to London for the rally on April 23. All are within 15 minutes travelling time to Trafalgar Square.

The Aylesbury Day Centre (London Borough of Southwark), Bradenham, Boysen Road, London SE17.

Vehicle access via Westmoreland Road. Foot access also from Albany Road.

On the right travelling north along Walworth Road.

The Charlie Ratchford Day Centre (London Borough of Camden), Belmont Street, Chalk Farm Road, London NW1.

On the left travelling south along Chalk Farm Road. Between Chalk Farm and Camden Road.

The Spastics Society, Fitzroy Square, London W1P 5HQ.

To the South of Euston Road. Between Portland Street and Warren Street.

Warwick Row Day Centre (City of Westminster), 10 Warwick Row, London SW1.

Off Bresenden Place (one-way street). Opposite Victoria Station.

Good Neighbours House, Mary Datchelor Close, via Vicarage Grove, Camberwell Green, London SE5.

Vicarage Grove is on the left of Camberwell Church Street, travelling east from Camberwell Green.

Your offers, wants, announcements . . .

OFFERED FREE to person able to collect. Chairmobile, good condition, but needs new battery. Chair detachable for easy handling. Battery charger and instruction book included. Tel Banbury (02 95) 2885.

FOR sale: Wheelchair cape, adult size. Royal blue nylon. £4. Mr P. Woodward, 162 Salterton Road, Exmouth, Devon.

FOR sale—invalid folding push-chair. Everest and Jennings — 1978 model. Pneumatic tyres. Double wheel brakes. Removable folding foot rests. Tools and pump. Hardly used—immaculate. Cost £98 new. Will sell for £50.—W. J.

Grisdale, 41 Pages Hill, Muswell Hill, London N10 1EH. Telephone 01 883 2128.

FOR sale—Vessa electric wheelchair (latest model). Right-hand control. For indoor and outdoor use. Can be folded to be carried in the back of a car. Carries an 11-stone person for 10 miles on one battery charge (battery charger included). Cost £400 when new. Offered for £300.—Apply to Mrs Iris Webb, 229 Marlborough Road, Romford, Essex. Tel Romford 60925.

EVEREST and Jennings 'Safari Rider' power drive wheelchair; very little use;

in perfect condition; not used for two years. Can be seen by arrangement. £250 or nearest offer.—Write or telephone Mrs Monica McCheane, 48 Ullswater Road, Barnes, London SW13 9PN. Tel 01-748 5996.

TRAVELECTRIX outdoor chair, as new, range approx 10 miles, asking price £350 (cost £600).—Write (or telephone) Chairman, Oxfordshire Cheshire Home, Greenhill House, Twyford, Banbury, Oxon. Tel Adderbury 679.

FOR sale: Braune Baticar, including batteries. Dark blue colour, hardly used. Cost £554 new. Also Zimmer folding (push) wheelchair. Two large wheels at back, two small swivel wheels at front. Detachable arms. Dark green. Cost over £80, little used. Highest offers accepted for both items. Mrs D. R. West, 10 Hillside, Potter Street, Harlow, Essex.

LOST friend. — Will John Williams, late of the Wirral, Sussex University and Durham Terrace, London, or anyone who knows where he can be contacted, please get in touch with his friend Phil Cadbury, 201 Slade Lane, Manchester 19 (061 224 3003). Phil has lost his address book.

STARS Organisation for Spastics, Colwall Court, Pages Avenue, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex. Holiday hotel for spastic children aged

five to 15. Lift—swimming pool—few minutes from the beach.

Special weeks including Teenagers' Fortnight, Parents' Fortnight and Old Age Pensioners' Fortnight. Details and bookings: Mr W. N. Simpson, The Manager. Tel: Bexhill 211491.

THE engagement is announced between Kenneth William Warner, late of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, now of 20 Pedders Lane, St Anne's Road, Blackpool, and Margaret Lucile Radcliffe, of 3 Rectory Close, St Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.

INDIVIDUAL spastic people, their relatives, or local voluntary group members may advertise their Offers and Wants in this column without charge. Write to the Editor at the address on Page 12.

Supporters rally in the West Region

A SUCCESSFUL West Regional Day has encouraged the Society's West Senior Regional Officer, Charmian Mould, to start planning one for next year. Last year a Regional Conference had to be cancelled through lack of support.

Said Charmian: 'We had 40 delegates, 52 had actually been expected and I was most encouraged by the response from the groups. Michael Brophy, the Society's Director of Fund Raising, spoke on the Save a Baby campaign and was enthusiastically received. The meeting agreed on a target of £10,000 which is very ambitious because there is not much money in this

area, and it is sparsely populated.

'Dr Ann Raikes linked her work in developmental paediatrics at Poole General Hospital with the Save a Baby campaign which also generated a lot of interest, and the afternoon was devoted to a discussion of the day's talks. People came from Cornwall, Dorset and Cheltenham as well as areas closer to Taunton for the day. Next year I hope we will get even greater numbers.'

News briefs

THE FROGS have jumped into action again to provide a £398 film projector for the children of the Society's Wilfred Pickles School, near Stamford. The FROGS (Fund Raising Organising Group for Spastics) are a group of Spastics Society staff members who work to help the cause in their spare time.

PORTSMOUTH and District Spastics Society has received cheques totalling £366 from Mr and Mrs Stenning, of the Portsbridge Hotel, Cosham. This was raised by various events including a disco session.

The money will go towards the group's work centre for young spastic people.

A £250 CHEQUE — the proceeds of a sponsored football match — has been presented to the White Lodge Spastics Centre, Chertsey, Surrey, by Hare Hill Social Club, Addlestone.

PRESTON and District Spastics Group, Lancashire, is celebrating its Silver Jubilee year.

NEWSPAPER stories about the man living on Social Security who was able to treat himself to 84 pints of beer a week so infuriated Mrs I. Moore, of Howden-le-Wear, Durham, that she wrote to the 'Northern Echo' about her spastic son.

'Despite his many operations and disabilities,' she said, 'he works for a living. As a single person he is heavily taxed and it sickens me to think that part of this goes to help such parasites to live in idleness.'

OVER a period of a year, the North Norfolk Spastic Bowls League has raised a total of £650 for Norfolk and Norwich Spastics Association.

NORTH Staffordshire Spastic Association has launched an appeal to raise £2,500. This will go into a trust fund to provide holidays for needy spastic people in the area.



ABOVE: Minister for the Disabled, Alf Morris, MP, chats with Paul Mills who comes to the centre each day from Chalfont St Peter.

RIGHT: Mr Morris cuts the tape across a commemorative plaque at the official opening of the George Mason Centre for young adults. Also in the picture are Lady Hall, President of the South Bucks Spastics Society, and Major John Young, Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire.



Centre shares burden with devoted parents

THE opening of the George Mason Centre, at Tylers Green, Buckinghamshire, has meant that parents in the area can now share the burden of caring for severely handicapped school-leavers.

The centre, as reported in last month's *Spastics News*, was officially opened by the Minister for the Disabled, Mr Alfred Morris MP, who said that the need for such centres was 'clear and unquestionable.'

Run by South Bucks Spastics Society with help from Bucks Social Services Department, it caters for young

adults who are severely handicapped both mentally and physically. They are unable to cope with even sheltered employment and are mostly unable to wash, feed or dress themselves. Many are incontinent and need constant attention.

The youngsters live at home with their parents who do not wish them to be placed in residential care but cannot always provide the kind of mental stimulation which they need during the day.

The centre was previously used by the South Bucks group as a school, whose former pupils have now transferred to the purpose-built Park Crescent School for handi-

capped children in High Wycombe.

Conversions to make the Tylers Green buildings more suited to adult use, plus the purchase of an ambulance for transporting members to and fro, cost about £13,000. Bucks County Council Social Services Department provided about £3,000 of this sum, but the balance had to be raised from voluntary contributions.

Both Mr Morris and Lady Hall, the group's President, paid tribute in their speeches at the official opening to the tireless volunteer fund raisers.

Volunteers also help in the day-to-day running of the centre, whose organiser, Mrs Kathleen Silvester, has a paid staff of only three, plus a part-time escort to assist with transport.

There are 12 to 15 places at the centre, whose activities include painting, simple crafts, cooking, music or basket work.

Annual running costs of the George Mason Centre are expected to be about £19,000. The bulk of this will be provided from a joint funding scheme by the Social Services Department. But the deficit, together with the cost of any future alterations, professional services and equipment, will have to be met by the South Bucks Spastics Society.

Big day for the Midlands

ADVICE on 'how to get the most out of your local authority' will be given to the parents of handicapped children at The Spastics Society's Midlands annual regional day to be held at the University of Leicester on Sunday, April 9.

Speakers will include Mr John Jillings, Director of Social Services, Derbyshire; Dr G. M. Cochrane, Derbyshire Area Health Authority; Mr Peter Burgess, welfare rights officer, Manchester Social Services Department; Miss Audrey Dent, supervisor occupational therapy, Derbyshire Social Services Department; Mr Dennis Gray, Inspector of special schools, City of Birmingham; and Mr Ken Davis, co-ordinator, Disablement Information and Advice Line.

In the afternoon, Mr Anthony Frank, the Society's Assistant Director, Regions, will be speaking about the 'Save a baby from being born spastic' campaign. Mr Dorrien Belson, Chairman of the Society, will address the meeting on 'The Society and its Future.'

The Chairman of the conference will be Lord Crawshaw, and the welcoming address will be by Mr F. F. Wright, Chairman of the Midlands Regional Co-ordinating Committee.



WINDOW ON WALES

by Emlyn Davies

Cashing in on a craze

MANY people may wonder when they see advertisements 'Welsh Skateboard Championships 1978, sponsored by The Spastics Society, Wales Region,' especially as skateboarding requires expert balance and physical fitness! However, Alf Buckley, one of the Wales Region's local appeal officers, sees it as an event which could raise a lot of money for the Society's 'Save a Baby from being born a spastic' campaign.

He approached the Welsh Skateboard Association, which was enthusiastic about the idea, and is now building a skateboard rink in sections, so that it can be transported to venues all over Wales.

The Championship will be split into area finals, the first at Wrexham on May 27, the second at Newport on June 3, the third at Swansea on June 10, and the Area Final plus the National Welsh Championships at Cardiff City Football Ground in June.

We are being assisted with publicity by the local newspapers and we are looking for sponsors prepared to pay for advertisements to be painted on to the skateboard rink.

Outside helpers

CARDIFF Group members under energetic chairman Dorothy Cottle have always been terrific fund-raisers. And due to the good image which they have built up over the

last quarter of a century in their fight to help spastics, they have gathered around them other organisations which help them to achieve specific projects.

The current project is a fortnight's holiday at the Jane Hodge Holiday Home for 14 trainees cared for by the group at the Cardiff Day Centre.

In the last few weeks they have received £430 from the Cyncoed Townswomen's Guild, £25 from the Cardiff East Townswomen's Guild and £200 from the Cardiff Castle Round Table. This means that their aim of raising £1,000 to pay for the holiday has been achieved.

A platform for you...

SINCE the untimely death of Bill Paton I have attempted to continue his work in writing the column 'Window on Wales,' which reports on events organised by groups, plus stories about individuals from schools, centres and those disabled people living at home.

But I am increasingly aware that the column is vastly under-used as a means of raising major issues of the day about disabled people and the environment in which they live.

I feel that as we are in the middle of one of the biggest campaigns that the Society has ever undertaken, there must be many topics or views that members of the Wales Region would like to put forward as open letters. I see these letters as offering points of view about anything relating to disability, and while it may not be possible to offer individual advice, I hope that the column can be now used as an open forum.

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Death of 'fine man'

A SAD bereavement came in March for Joyce Gardner, one of The Spastics Society's most dedicated fund-raisers. Her husband, Bill Williams, died after a long illness.

Joyce, the Ladies' World Snooker and Billiards Champion, has given exhibitions of her skill at clubs all over the country for some 18 years in aid of spastics. She was devotedly supported by her husband who managed her bookings, arranged her itineraries and drove her to exhibitions.

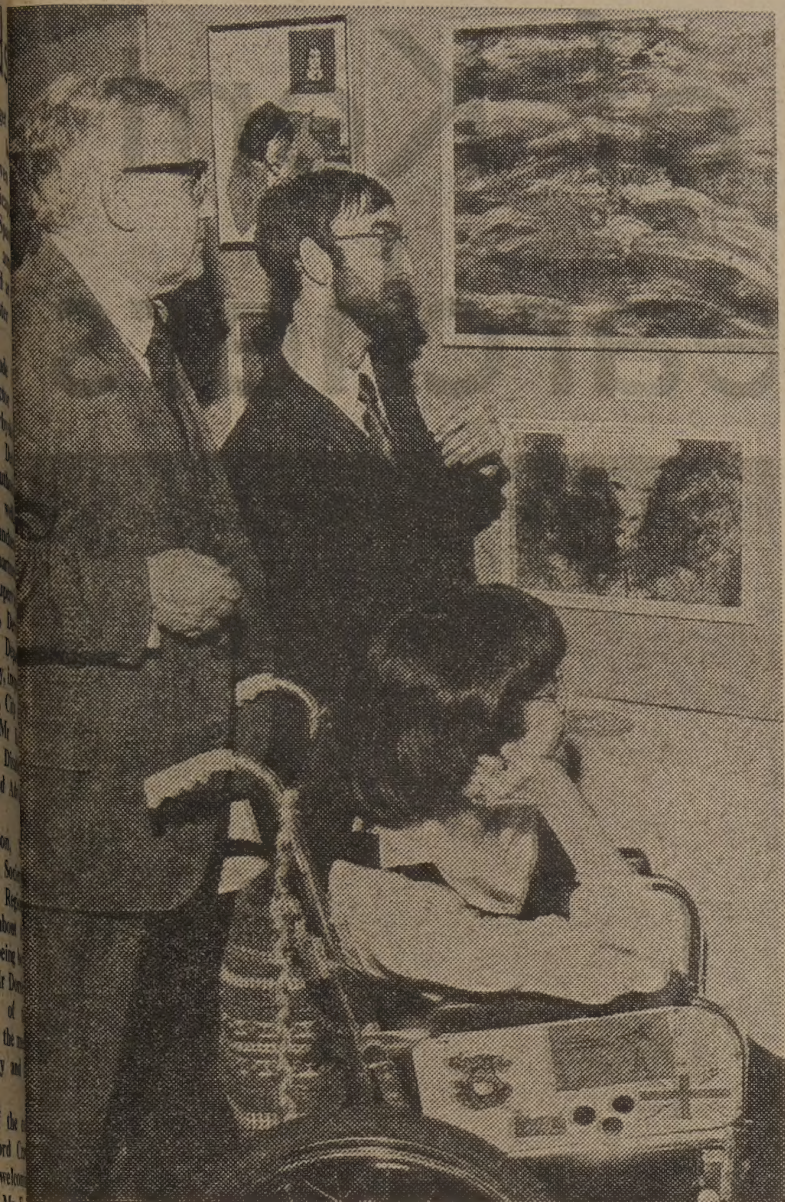
Said Peter Jordan, the Society's Head of Appeals Projects, 'Bill was a fine man, loved and respected by all who came into contact with him. His infinite patience and understanding, and the perfect way in which he supported Joyce in her work for the spastics' cause will never be forgotten by us here at the Society.'

His work was 'unsparing'

Mr William Blood, a founder-member and Chairman of the North Staffordshire Spastic Association, died in March at the age of 71.

His service to the group spanned more than 25 years and he worked unsparingly to further the cause of making adequate provision for spastics in the area.

'Bill Blood did notable work for the association and he will be greatly missed,' said the group's vice-chairman, Mr Clifford Prohett.



Support for art show

LORD Mayor of Bristol, Councillor Edward Wright, attended a preview of the Stoke Lane Art Group exhibition at the Mayfair Club, New Bristol Centre on March 13. The exhibition of over 40 works by handicapped artists is open to the public at the Central Library, College Green, Bristol, to April 8.

The Group was formed in October 1977 by handicapped people with a deep interest in art and a desire to explore and develop their talents. Their exhibition was supported by The Spastics Society's Recreational Services and Top Ten Promotions.

Picture shows Tony Frank, left, Assistant Director, Regions, The Spastics Society, discussing the exhibits with Steve Gordon, Chairman of the Stoke Lane Art Group and Sally Thomas, who made the largest contribution to the exhibition.



Fly a cheque to Canada

THANKS to a share of the Spastics Pool first dividend, Anne Williamson, of Gosforth, will be able to visit relatives in Canada. Anne is employed

at the Percy Hedley School for the handicapped and received her cheque for £2,500 from Headmaster, David Johnstone. The Percy Hedley School is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, and Anne has been associated with it since 1955 when she joined as a voluntary helper.

Pool generosity brings help to farm charity

EDWIN Z. Tauber, Chairman of the Home Farm Trust, gratefully received a cheque for £10,000 from Douglas Arter, a trustee of the Sembal Trust, at Westmorland House, Bristol — the third grant in four years.

The Sembal Trust was one of three trusts founded in the early 1960's by the promoters of the Spastics Pool to provide financial support for registered charitable organisations. Since that time over 1,000 charities have bene-

fited and the Sembal Trust and the Van Neste Foundation still receive an income from the subscriptions of Spastics Pool members. The previous sums given to the Home Farm Trust were £3,000 in 1974, and £5,000 in 1976.

The Home Farm Trust Limited was formed in 1962 to provide life-long care for the mentally handicapped. The

Trust, a registered charity, has established five residential homes: Frocester Manor, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire; Old Quarries, Tetbury, Gloucestershire; Fairthorne, Dore, Sheffield; Cherington House, Shipston-on-Strour, Warwickshire; and the latest — Lydiate, Willaston, Wirral, Cheshire.

In the homes' own work-

shops, craftsmen teach residents skills such as carpentry, basketwork and needlework which enables them to contribute to both the upkeep and funds of the homes. Extensive mixed farming and market gardening result in the production by the residents of all their own vegetables and much of their meat.

The Trust provides security and care for 121 mentally handicapped adults, and a further 32 will be accommodated at the Lydiate when it is opened at the end of this year.

Advice service quickly proves its worth

THE Bristol Advice Centre for the Disabled was set up at Westmorland House, the headquarters of Top Ten Promotions, Limited, last December. Since then, Ann Trotman, the centre's advisor, has dealt with questions on welfare rights, benefits, local ser-

vices, voluntary organisations, legislation, education, recreational services and mobility.

Now the centre has been officially opened by the Lord Mayor of Bristol, Councillor Edward Wright, JP. He was welcomed by Mr Len Bowen, Chairman of the Bristol and District Spastics Association, who with Top Ten is sponsoring the centre. Guests included Mrs G. Barrow, Douglas Arter, Chairman Top Ten Promotions, and Mr James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society.

The centre is supported by Avon Social Services through the joint advisory committee for the physically handicapped, and is run by a committee made up of organisations for the disabled. Easily accessible with good parking facilities, it is open from 9.30 to 4.30 on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and from 9.30 to 1 pm on Wednesday and Friday.



Picture shows the Lord Mayor, Councillor Edward Wright, JP, the Lady Mayoress, Miss Frances Chamberlain, and Mr Ian

Burling, Chairman of the committee for the centre, talking to Ann Trotman, the centre's advisor.

News about the Spastics Pool

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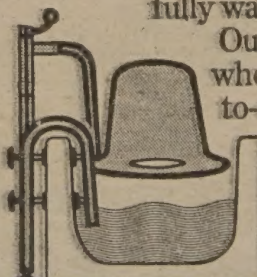
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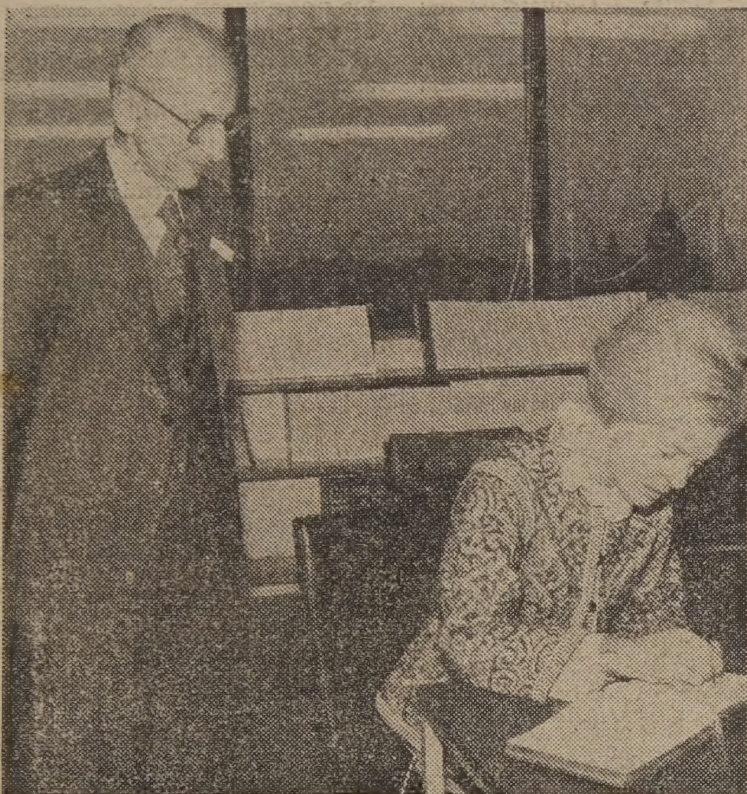
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The Duchess of Kent meets the researchers



ST PAUL'S Cathedral is on the skyline, silhouetted in the library window, as the Duchess reaches the most formal part of this most relaxed Royal visit — signing the Visitors' Book. With her is Professor Paul Polani.

WHEN the Duchess of Kent first visited the Paediatric Research Unit sponsored by The Spastics Society at Guy's Hospital, London, she saw a collection of laboratories in a disused warehouse in the old part of the hospital. That was in February 1971. Seven years later she returned to find the Unit housed in the comparative opulence of the Prince Philip Tower Block with two floors of sterile units, laboratories, amniocentesis clinic and administrative offices.

Professor Paul Polani, the Unit's Director, found the Society's Patron keenly interested in every aspect of the work going on. One wall of his office has a panoramic view of the

City of London, while another is covered in photographs which the Duchess clearly found fascinating. 'These are my etchings,' the Professor explained, 'memories of key events.' The collection included a picture of a mongol chimpanzee and a slide of human tissue culture.

Professor Polani discussed the success of the amniocentesis clinic where mothers undergo tests to ascertain the likelihood of an abnormal baby. Mothers of handicapped children welcomed the test as a rule, but Professor Polani pointed out that in any case many, many abnormal babies were never born because of miscarriage. This natural screening process accounted for 60 per cent in cases of mongolism to almost 100 per cent in a particularly rare chromosome defect. 'Nature's own miracle,' commented the Duchess of the natural screening process.

Professor Polani and the Society's chairman Mr Dorrien Belson guided the Duchess round the Unit — it was Mr Belson who had invited the Duchess to make the tour as it was the Society's 'Save a Baby' campaign year. As the visit was strictly informal the Duchess saw a wide range of the Unit's day to day activities, chatting to research technician John Crolla, and research assistants Susan Oliver and Susan Blunt in the Cytogenetics Department.



'THERE'S nothing to be afraid of,' the Duchess almost seems to be saying to the curly-tailed mouse cupped in the hands of Dr Mary Seller, lecturer in experimental biology. The curly-tailed mice are providing valuable clues in the work to prevent handicap in babies.

The Duchess was intrigued by the cages of curly tailed mice bred in the experimental biology laboratory, and Dr Mary Seller explained that pregnant mice were injected with a chemical and the resulting litter all had curly tails. This aided research into spina bifida. 'Mice mimic the human species when it comes to

spina bifida — for instance more females than males are affected and an excess of water indicates abnormality just as in human pregnancies. It's fascinating,' she said.

The Duchess obviously thought so too, for before she left she asked if her elder son, George, 13, could visit the Unit in his holidays.



• SUSAN Blunt, research assistant in the Cytogenetics Department, was in the middle of drying a slide when she met the Duchess. Once she had completed the process she went on to elaborate on her work for the Duchess who obviously found it absorbing. Also in the picture is Mr Dorrien Belson, Chairman of The Spastics Society.



ALTHOUGH the keynote of the Duchess's visit was informality, she was welcomed to Guy's Hospital Paediatric Research Unit by Major General Neil Rogers, the Clinical Superintendent, Dr J. C. Houston, Dean of the Medical School, Dorrien Belson, Chairman of The Spastics Society, and Professor Paul Polani, Director of the PRU.



ABOVE: The Duchess found her visit to the Unit of such interest that she asked Professor Polani, seen here with Dr Eva Alberman, if it would be possible for her 13-year-old son, George, to come on an informal visit in his turn.

PICTURE right: Susan Oliver, research assistant in the Cytogenetics Department, is working on pre-natal diagnosis and she found a fascinated audience in the Duchess.



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